

What happened yesterday, Mr. Speaker, is a basic violation of the fundamental principle that life is to give, not to take. Let us let the world know today that the forces of evil shall not prevail.

AMERICA, A BEACON OF FREEDOM TO THE WORLD

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, for as long as we live, we will remember September 11, 2001, and the moments when we first heard that America was viciously attacked in horrible acts of war by terrorists who declared war on America. We did not seek this war, but it is a war that has been brought to our shores. And we will not shirk from the responsibilities to respond courageously. America has always been at its best when it is being tested.

Why has this war been declared on America? Because we are the symbol of freedom and democracy around the world. Those who are perpetrating this war against America, the terrorists and terrorist groups, hate freedom. Theirs is a totalitarian vision dressed in religious garb.

Mr. Speaker, we have already fought and defeated totalitarian regimes in the past. It was our resolve, our principles, our commitment to life, liberty and the pursuits of happiness that brought us through victoriously. The same will be true this time. Americans will stand together against these savage, desperate tactics.

Yesterday's acts were not the acts of criminals, but the military acts of enemies. And military tactics demand military responses. Terrorism is a tactic of the weak, but America is strong. We must declare war on these terrorist groups, the vicious barbarians aiming at our destruction and those who harbor them.

America will respond with resolve. We will continue to be the beacon of freedom in the world.

HEINOUS CRIMES AGAINST AMERICA WILL BE AVENGED

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, let us resolve that the dastardly attack which was thrust upon America yesterday, September 11, 2001, will always be put among those days that will live in infamy.

Terrorism is cowardly, devastating and immoral by the standards of all who believe in a just and loving God.

We owe it to all who suffered and died, we owe it to all decent human beings, to make sure that those who are in any way responsible for this will be held totally accountable for their heinous crime.

STANDING TOGETHER UNITED

(Mr. KING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was an act of war upon the United States. Our country as a nation will never be the same again. But from that tragedy, from that moment of death and destruction, we must rededicate ourselves to our principles. We must stand behind our President as commander in chief; stand together, not as Democrats and Republicans, but as Americans, vowing to find out exactly who it was that is responsible for this heinous act and to do all we can to eliminate them from the face of the Earth, and also those who would harbor them, those who harbor these terrorists.

Also my heart goes out to the victims, many of whom live in my district and the adjoining districts outside of and within New York City. Already the names of friends and relatives are coming in, so we personally know how tragic this truly is. I just want those families to know that our hearts and prayers are with them. We give a special debt of thanks to the police officers and the firefighters who gave their lives.

Again, as Americans, we must stand together one united country to root out this terrorism, to defeat them once and for all. Our hearts and prayers go to the victims and their families.

STANDING TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a day from hell, a tragedy that was perpetrated by people with a demonic view, who do not value human life. Words have never been less adequate than to meet the challenge of giving sympathy to the families of those affected.

On behalf of my constituents, I want to extend sympathy to those families of the victims, to make special note of those who were courageously there, the public safety people in New York who also lost their lives.

We do not know the extent of the casualties yet, Mr. Speaker, but we cannot let one of the casualties be the freedom that is the foundation of our country. We stand united behind our President and behind our congressional leaders as we try to inspire confidence in the American people and restore calm. Panic, of course, is the best thing we could give the terrorists. It would be a victory for them.

I hope that also in terms of calm and confidence, that we will have an emergency supplemental which will fully fund FEMA to meet the needs of the people affected in New York and also to

meet the needs to restore the Pentagon.

We always pray for God to bless America. In the spirit of our people, God has blessed America. The people of Oklahoma gave us an example. New York will rise from the ashes like the great Phoenix that it will be.

ADVERSITY DOES NOT DIVIDE AMERICA

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of these attacks on American soil, the United States of America must retaliate with force. Yesterday's acts of cowardice signify an act of war, and we will fight this war to win.

Adversity does not divide America; it strengthens us and propels us into unprecedented unity. These cowards have failed.

Mr. Speaker, our America is much more than the buildings and monuments that grace our soil. America is a nation of great people, joined by the love of country and the belief in freedom and liberty. This can never be extinguished.

The loss of life is devastating and has impacted all walks of American life. Our rescue workers, including police and firefighters, have suffered great loss. They are heroes, and have bravely sacrificed their lives to save those suffering from these cowardly acts committed by these evil individuals.

This tragic event has mobilized America like never before. Our patriotic spirit has been resurrected, and this will be prove to our enemy's demise.

God bless America.

AMERICA WILL PREVAIL

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, words are inadequate to express the agony we feel today for those who lost their lives yesterday, for their families, and for this country. But we will recover, rebuild and move on.

In the dark days of late 1941, it was Winston Churchill, speaking for the Western allies, who said, "We have not journeyed all this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains and across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy."

We are not. In truth, the people of this country are big in heart and strong in character. We will maintain our open society and fight terrorism around the globe with freedom-loving peoples everywhere, and we will prevail.